

Environmental Protection Indicators for California (EPIC)

An environmental indicator system for Cal/EPA

As part of the implementation of Cal/EPA's *Strategic Vision*, OEHHA will be collaboratively developing environmental indicators for Cal/EPA under the Environmental Protection Indicators for California, or "EPIC" Project.

The EPIC Project is a team effort involving the boards and departments in Cal/EPA, other State and federal agencies, and an external advisory group consisting of non-profit groups, local government, the private sector and academia. Cal/EPA's environmental indicator system will provide a means of assessing trends associated with the Agency's mission.

The Cal/EPA indicator system will likely include measures relating to Agency-wide goals set forth in the *Strategic Vision*. These goals encompass such areas as: air quality; water quality; human health and ecological risks from hazardous substances; reduction of the disproportionate impacts of pollution on communities; and efficient use of natural resources.

By the end of the EPIC's first year, a *Framework for Developing Cal/EPA Environmental Indicators* will be released for public review. The framework will delineate the process and criteria for identifying and selecting environmental indicators. It will also include an initial set of environmental indicators.

OEHHA will solicit comments on the *Framework* document through various mechanisms, including public workshops and the EPIC web site.

For more information, please contact:
Regina Donohoe, Ph.D.
(916) 323-5646, or rdonohoe@oehha.ca.gov
or visit the EPIC web site:
www.oehha.ca.gov/public_info.html

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Conference on Environmental Protection Indicators for California

*Building a Framework for Cal/EPA's
Environmental Indicator System*

January 18-19, 2001
Radisson Hotel
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento, California
95815



Sponsored by:
California Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Gray Davis
Governor

Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary

Joan E. Denton
Director



Environmental indicators have been used at the international, national, and state levels to communicate the condition of the environment to the public and to provide policy-makers with tools to evaluate regulatory performance and to set priorities. As part of the California Environmental Protection Agency's (Cal/EPA) efforts to move toward a results-based management system, environmental indicators can reveal areas where Cal/EPA efforts have been successful, identify areas that need improvement, and signal the existence of unrecognized problems.

The **Conference on Environmental Protection Indicators for California: Building a Framework for Cal/EPA's Environmental Indicator System** will introduce Cal/EPA's environmental indicators project, known as **Environmental Protection Indicators for California (EPIC)**. Participants will hear from experts representing organizations that develop and utilize environmental indicators. In addition, open discussions and daily breakout sessions at the conference will offer an opportunity for participants to provide input into the identification and selection of issues and sub-issues for prospective environmental indicator development.

Participant input at the conference will be used in identifying and selecting issues and sub-issues for prospective indicator development.

Thursday, January 18

(Registration starts at 8:00 a.m.)
9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Environmental indicators as an environmental protection tool for Cal/EPA

- How are environmental indicator systems used by other organizations?
- What are some significant issues, areas, elements of environmental protection for California?

Speakers:

Winston H. Hickox, Secretary
California Environmental Protection Agency

Joan E. Denton, Ph.D., Director
Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment

Gil Bergquist, Ph.D., Associate Director
Environmental Management
Florida Center for Public Management

Leslie McGeorge, M.S.P.H., Assistant Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Pieter Verkerk, Counselor for Environment
Royal Netherlands Embassy

Friday, January 19

9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Developing environmental indicators for Cal/EPA: Considerations and criteria

- What criteria should be used in selecting and developing environmental indicators?
- What process has been used by other organizations in developing environmental indicators?
- What parameters, components, elements or factors relating to the environment are important to measure?

Speakers:

Mark Robson, Ph.D., Former Co-Director,
New Jersey Center for Environmental Indicators;
Director,
Environmental Occupational Health Science
Institute

Laura Jackson, M.Sc.
Office of Research and Development
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Peter Melhus, Board Chairman
Silicon Valley Environmental Partnership

Ken Jones, Ph.D., Executive Director
Green Mountain Institute

What are Environmental Indicators?

Environmental indicators present scientifically based information on environmental conditions (e.g., public and ecological health), trends and their significance. An indicator has a significance extending beyond that directly associated with the parameter measured. Examples of previously reported indicators include: ozone concentrations in air, blood lead levels in children, percent of surface water bodies meeting beneficial uses, amount of solid waste landfilled and pesticide residue levels in food. Environmental indicators will enable Cal/EPA to refine goals, efficiently allocate resources, and promote greater accountability in the State's environmental programs. Cal/EPA's environmental indicators will also provide information to the public regarding the state of California's environment.

Registration

To register, call (916) 278-4960 or (800) 858-7743; or fax the completed registration form to (916) 278-4865; or mail the completed form to Environmental Protection Indicators Conference at RCE Conference & Training Services, California State University, Sacramento, 7700 College Town Drive, #200, Sacramento, CA 95826.

There is no fee for attending the conference, but space will be limited to the first 200 participants who register.

The registration deadline is January 5, 2001. Conference materials will be provided upon checking-in at the registration desk on-site. No food or beverages will be provided.

Please Note: There will be minimal telephone coverage during December 25 – January 1. Registration staff members will be working a limited holiday schedule.

Yes! Please register me for the Conference on Environmental Protection Indicators for California, January 18-19, 2001.

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/ZIP: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

To help us plan for all conference attendees' need, please indicate special services you may need no later than January 5, 2001:

A more detailed conference agenda is posted at:
www.oehha.ca.gov/public_info.html